Dear Parents,

We continue to closely monitor all advice for a safe and successful school year. The Department of Health has directed schools to proceed within current CDC guidelines, which were most recently updated last week. Below are some key points as we plan for our reopening.

For the health of the whole school community, all students and faculty who are eligible for a vaccine, must be vaccinated. If you believe your child may have a medical exemption, please write to your child’s dean to begin an interactive exemption request process. The deans’ emails are below and you should make contact by Monday, August 16th.

Before Monday, August 23rd, eligible students should submit a scanned copy of their vaccination card to our school nurse, Ms. Thomas: CThomas@yorkprep.org. If, by that date, your child has not completed their vaccine series, please submit a copy of the record in progress that includes the date of the first dose.

In the event of a positive case at school, any close contacts who are exhibiting COVID symptoms, and any close contact with a vaccine exemption, must quarantine at home. Vaccinated students without symptoms will not need to quarantine. If members of our 6th grade, who are not currently eligible for vaccination, are exposed to a positive case in-school, we will provide remote learning for the affected 6th grade classes.

Until guidance changes, all community members must wear a mask when indoors. Students may remove their mask when eating indoors provided they are 6-feet from another person. Vaccinated students may remove their mask outdoors.

As per CDC guidance, students will maintain 3-feet of distance whenever possible in classrooms. In addition, we will continue to promote preventative measures, such as regular handwashing, appropriately ventilated classrooms, and a daily deep cleaning of our campus. As always, we ask families to be our allies in this fight. Last year, we were able to keep our community safe while maintaining a full day of classes, five days per week. We have come a long way since the darkest days of the pandemic. Now we must do everything
we can to stay ahead of this danger, while enjoying as robust and normal a school year as possible.

Finally, we understand the enormous anxiety that the last 18 months has brought students and parents alike. The school has added an additional member to our Wellness Team to support our students. We will continue to do everything we can to promote kindness and mutual support in the community, and treasure the trust you have given us by placing your child's education in our hands.

As further adjustments are made by the CDC in the coming weeks and months, we will communicate any change to our plans.

Warm regards,

Ronald Stewart and Jeremy Clarke

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